

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 17230 141555Z
ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (SHAPP, MILTON) EG
SUBJECT: VISIT OF GOVERNOR SHAPP TO EGYPT

REF: CAIRO 17161

1. WE HAVE HAD NO DIRECT WORD FROM DEPT ON REPORTED INTENTION OF GOVERNOR SHAPP OF PENNSYLVANIA TO VISIT EGYPT DECEMBER 16-21. OUR ONLY INFO COMES FROM MFA, WHICH WAS PRESUMABLY ASKED BY GHORBAL TO ARRANGE PROGRAM AS INDICATED REFTTEL, MFA--WHICH WILL ALSO HAVE ASAD HERE SAME TIME--HAS TASKED GOE MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVT TO ARRANGE PROGRAM APPARENTLY REQUESTED BY SHAPP. JUDGING FROM CALL MADE TO US TODAY, MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVT IS IN A TIZZY ABOUT HANDLING VISIT. IT CLAIMS THAT VISIT IS NOT OFFICIAL AND THAT IT CANNOT GET HOTEL RESERVATIONS IN CAIRO, AIR RESERVATIONS TO LUXOR OR HOTEL RESERVATIONS AT LUXOR OR ASWAN. IT HAS SOUGHT TO DUMP HANDLING SHAPP VISIT ON US. WE HAVE DECLINED TO DO SO, INDICATING WE HAVE NO DIRECT KNOWLEDGE OF VISIT.

2. I HOPE TO SEE GOVERNOR SHAPP, BUT EMBASSY CLEARLY CANNOT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ARRANGING PROGRAM AT THIS LATE DATE. ALL THE MORE SINCE ALL WE HAVE ON VISIT IS HEARSAY. AS DEPT AWARE, HOTEL SITUATION IN CAIRO IS ACUTE. SAME APPLIES TO AIR TRAVEL TO ASWAN AND LUXOR AND HOTEL RESERVATIONS THERE. RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE MONTHS IN ADVANCE. AMBASSADOR BHORBAL'S TELEGRAM APPARENTLY INDICATED RESERVATIONS MADE AT SHERATON HOTEL. HOWEVER, IN MAKING INFORMAL CHECK OF SHERATON, WE FIND THERE ARE

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NO RESERVATIONS FOR SHAPP PARTY. YOU MAY WISH CONTACT

SHAPP'S OFFICE AND EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THE GOVERNOR
HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH SOME REPUTABLE TRAVEL AGENCY
FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS IN CAIRO, LUXOR AND ASWAN AND OTHER
TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS. GOE HAS NOT DONE SO AND MINISTRY
LOCAL GOVT CLAIMS IT IS UNABLE TO DO SO. YOU MAY ALSO
WISH CONTACT GHORBAL AND ASK WHAT HE HAS DONE IN THIS
MATTER. NO OBJECTION YOUR PASSING ON TO GHORBAL MFA AND
MINISTRY LOCAL GOVT PROFESSED INABILITY MAKE ARRANGEMENTS. HE MAY
WISH SEND FOLLOW-UP CABLE PRESSING GOE MINISTRIES ASSIST
SHAPP PARTY AS HE APPARENTLY PROMISED WOULD BE DONE.
WOULD APPRECIATE ANY CLARIFICATION YOU MAY BE ABLE TO
PROVIDE ON WHAT ARRANGEMENTS SHAPP AND/OR GHORBAL HAVE
MADE AND THROUGH WHOM.
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